

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-12 AGRE-00

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01

TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /128 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7241

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 842

C O N F I D E N T I A L L I M E 9353

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, PE

SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA: PERUVIAN REACTION TO AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S
OCT 4 STATEMENT

REF: STATE 238616

1. POL COUNSELOR DISCUSSED RICHARDSON TESTIMONY ON SEABEDS
MINING LEGISLATION (REFTEL) WITH ALBARO DE SOTO POLAR, FOREIGN
MINISTRY LOS EXPERT. DE SOTO JUST RETURNED FROM ECLA-SPONSORED
SEMINAR ON SEABED RESOURCES IN BUENOS AIRES WHICH WAS ATTENDED
BY A NUMBER OF LATIN AMERICAN AND SOME EUROPEAN LOS SPECIALISTS.
DISCUSSION LED TO BROADER ASSESSMENT OF DIRECTION OF LOS,
STRATEGY, AND TACTICS.

2. PERU AND, IT WAS IMPLIED, SOME OF ITS LATIN NEIGHBORS, REGARD
SHIF IN US POLICY IN FAVOR OF SEABED LEGISLATION AS A PRESSURE
TACTIC ON G-77 AND COMMITTEE I, ALBEIT AND UNDERSTANABLE ONE.
PERU, HOWEVER, IS SOMEWHAT LESS CONCERNED ABOUT U.S. POSITION
NOW THAT IT UNDERSTANDS SENATE ACTION ON LEGISLATION UNLIKELY
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BEFORE LOS RECONVENES IN MARCH. PROBLEM REMAINS OF HOW TO GET
OUT OF IMPASSE CREATED BY ENGO DRAFT ON SEABEDS WHICH PERU OPPOSES
--NOT BECAUSE IT NECESSARILY DISAGREES WITH LEFTWARD
DIRECTION OF TEXT BUT BECAUSE STRONG OPPOSITION TO IT BY
THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES COULD ENDANGER THE WHOLE TREATY
IN WHICH PERU HAS SERIOUS INTEREST. DE SOTO DOES NOT BELIEVE
THAT SEABEDS RESOURCES ISSUE CAN BE BROKEN OUT OF TREATY WITHOUT

FATALLY UNBALANCING THE COMPLEX OF DC VS. LDO INTERESTS. TO DO SO, IN HIS VIEW, WOULD PRODUCE FRAGMENTED TREATIES OF LITTLE RELEVANCE. REFERRING TO EVENSON PROPOSAL FOR MID-NOVEMBER MEETING OF SELECT GROUP TO DISCUSS INTERSESSIONAL CONFERENCES AIMED AT BREAKING SEABED DEADLOCK, DE SOTO SAID THAT WHILE ENDORSING THE PROPOSAL, HE IS DOUBTFUL THAT IT WILL PROVIDE A MEANS TO GET AROUND ENGO. DE SOTO'S ONLY SUGGESTION WAS THAT COMMITTEE I ADMIT SEABED DEBATE STALLED AND MOVE ISSUE TO PLENARY. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WAS EASIER SAID THAN DONE.

3. DE SOTO, WHO HAS SPENT 10 YEARS WORKING ON LOS MATTERS, WAS ASKED HOW HE VIEWED FUTURE TREATIES AND LOS SESSION NEXT MARCH. WHILE REFUSING TO CHARACTERIZE HIS ASSESSMENT AS MORE OR LESS OPTIMISTIC THAN IN THE PAST, HE SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD COME A LONG WAY AND HE NOW HAD A FEELING THAT THEY WERE "EITHER NEAR A BREAKTHROUGH--OR ANY ABYSS."

4. DE SOTO ALSO EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT PERSONAL SHIFTS IN U.S. DELEGATION TO LOS AND THEIR IMPACT ON CONTINUITY OF U.S. REPRESENTATION TO CONFERENCE (HE HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR A NUMBER OF THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVES AND ESPECIALLY AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON). POL COUNSELOR SUBSEQUENTLY WAS ABLE TO CLARIFY SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE CHANGE PER STATE 254726.

5. FURTHER TO PERSONNEL CHANGES, DE SOTO HIMSELF WILL BE LEAVING
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THE OFFICE OF MARTIME AFFAIRS FOR TRANSFER ABROAD AROUND THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. NO POST HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED BUT HE IMPLIED MINISTRY MAY PLACE HIM SOMEWHERE NEAR GENEVA OR NEW YORK, WITH THE THOUGHT THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE ON PERU'S LOS DELEGATIONS.
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